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Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, to whom a thousand years are but a moment, help us to maximize today's possibilities with humble and grateful hearts.

Lord, please bring peace on Earth and goodwill to humanity.

Lord, have mercy upon the Ukrainian people as they seek to survive warfare during a freezing and fearful Christmas. Remind us all that humanity is wrapped up in a blanket of mutuality and tied to a single garment of destiny.

Continue to use our lawmakers as instruments of Your peace, empowering them to make the rough places smooth and the crooked places straight.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, it was very late last night for those of us who were here and the staff. At 2 a.m. is when we finished, 2:01, to try to reach an agreement on finishing the omnibus bill. We are getting ever closer to reaching an agreement, but we are still not there. I hope that we will lock in an agreement sometime later this morning.

In the meantime, we will start today with a vote on the confirmation of Franklin Parker to serve as Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

I want to thank my colleagues from both sides of the aisle for their cooperation. I thank the clerks for being here late, late last night as we waited and waited and waited for an agreement, which hasn't yet come, and for showing up early this morning.

And I hope we can finish the omnibus today. There is no reason why we can't. The bill is so important to get done because it will be good for families, for veterans, our national security, even for the health of our democratic institutions. To go to a CR or, even worse, a government shutdown, would be a huge disservice at any time, but particularly in the holiday season, to the American people.

To ensure that we minimize any delays, I ask Members to stay near the floor and be ready to get voting when the time comes. If we can keep this process moving, we can finish in time for Members and staff to get home for Christmas safely, before the blizzard wreaks havoc across much of the country.

I yield the floor.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Franklin R. Parker, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Navy.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Parker nomination?

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE), and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

The result was announced—70 yeas, 22 nays, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 406 Ex.]

YEAS—70

Baldwin
Bennet

Blumenthal
Blunt

Booker
Brown

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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